REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1-14 and 19-22 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12 have been withdrawn. Dependent claims 20 and 22 have been amended slightly to avoid indefinite language identified in the last office action. These amendments do not raise issues that would require further consideration or searching by the Examiner. Accordingly, entry of these amendments after final rejection is solicited.

Claims 20 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph in view of the indefinite term "rod-like". It was the intent of counsel to delete the term "rod-like" in each of claims 20 and 22 and to insert the more definite term "rod-shaped" in each of claims 20 and 22. The Examiner correctly noted that the amendment to claim 20 added the term "rod-shaped" but did not delete the objectionable and indefinite term "rod-like". This Amendment After Final Rejection accomplishes the amendment that was intended. This minor amendment clearly does not raise new issues that require further consideration or searching by the Examiner. Additionally, the elimination of a rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph places the application in better condition for appeal. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection is solicited.

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the Kato patent that was cited for the first time in the final rejection. The comments in the Advisory Action stated that the arguments in the Amendment After Final Rejection were "not found persuasive because in Figs. 3-4 and 6" of Kato depict the claimed steps where the seal member is retained in a fixed position as a locked state prior to inserting the wire into the sealing member during the locked state.

The detailed arguments presented in the Amendment After Final Rejection are incorporated herein by reference. Additionally, it is submitted, with due respect, that the Examiner has misinterpreted Kato. Kato explains at col. 4, lines 27-32 that "the chuck portions 9b are slid by the cylinders 9a and grip the electric wire 10 by the V grooves 9d formed in the front ends of the chuck portions in such a manner that the axis of the electric wire 10 is aligned with the axis of the guide nozzle" (emphasis added). The above-quoted description corresponds to the view of Kato depicted in Fig. 3. Kato proceeds to explain at col. 4, lines 38-40 that "in the state of FIG. 3, the electric wire 10 is gripped by the linear body gripping means 9. The front end of the electric wire 10 has been uncovered to expose the core 10a." This same paragraph of Kato explains that air then "is fed to the guide nozzle actuating cylinder 7 through the air pipe 7b, so that the nozzle 5 advances toward the electric wire 10 until the front end of the electric wire enters the nozzle 5." This step of Kato is indicated by the double ended arrow in Fig. 3.

Kato proceeds to explain at col. 4, lines 45-55 that:

> "On the other hand, one waterproof plug 2 fed from the waterproof plug feed means 1 is delivered to the air transfer device 4 through the waterproof plug dispenser 3, whereupon a high-pressure air (about 4 kgf/cm.sup.2) is fed to the air transfer device 4, so that the waterproof plug 2 flies like a bullet of an air gun through the air transfer device 4 and reaches the guide nozzle 5. The waterproof plug 2 is given rotation by the spiral groove 5c of the guide nozzle 5 and is thereby fitted on the front end portion of the electric wire as shown in FIG. 4."

The movement of the plug 2 flying like a bullet is depicted in Fig. 4 in phantom lines including the broken right-to-left arrow in Fig. 4. The solid depiction of the plug 2 in Fig. 4 is a representation of the plug 2 that has flown like a bullet and has been given rotation by

the spiral groove 5c to be "fitted on the front end portion of the electric wire as shown in Fig. 4."

Fig. 6 is actually a depiction of an alternate embodiment from the depiction shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The alternate embodiment of Fig. 6 has the common feature of fixedly holding the wire and moving the plug which "flies like a bullet of an air gun" (col. 5, lines 58-59) as in the embodiment of Figs. 3 and 4. The second embodiment differs from the first embodiment merely by the mechanism for causing the plug to be given rotation as it flies like a bullet.

To support a rejection under 35 USC 102, a reference must meet each of the limitations recited in a claim. Furthermore, the reference must be enabling for the claimed invention. These requirements of 35 USC 102 require the Kato reference to teach:

> "a locking step of bringing the seal member to a locked state in the seal cavity so that the seal member is prevented from moving along the axis line;
>
> an inserting step of inserting the electric wire into the seal member along the axis line <u>while the seal member is in the locked state</u>."

At best, Fig. 4 of Kato shows that Kato achieves a static condition where the plug is in a fixed state <u>on the wire</u> 10 before the wire 10 and the plug 2 are separated from the Kato apparatus. However, the applicants herein are not claiming a static state, but rather positively recite a sequence of clearly defined method steps. The method taught by Kato is virtually the exact opposite of the method defined by the claims herein and clearly nothing in Kato teaches or suggests the claimed method. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to reconsider the final rejection and to allow all of the claims that remain in the application. Counsel believes that a brief telephone or personal interview could be helpful for discussing the significant differences between the claimed invention and Kato.

Accordingly, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the applicants attorney at the number below to arrange for such an interview at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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